REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 27, 2006 has been received and carefully studied.

The Examiner objects to claim 6 for the reason that there is no space between the word "Claims" and the number "1". By the accompanying amendment, this informality has been corrected. In addition, "Claims" has been amended to "Claim".

Claim 8 also has been amended to correct "Claims" to "Claim".

The Examiner rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner states that the term "using" is indefinite, and suggests alternative language. By the accompanying amendment, the Examiner's suggestion has been adopted.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,948,154. The Examiner states that Hayashi et al. teach a yellow ink composition comprising a dye of the Formula (XI) and an ink jet printing method. The Examiner admits that Hayashi et al. fail to specifically exemplify the use of a mixture of two dyes of the formula (XI) wherein both dyes contain sulfo groups on the substituents R^{101} and

R^{102}, but concludes that it would have been obvious to use the mixture of the two dyes.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hayashi et al. disclose a yellow ink composition comprising the formula (XI) and (XII), and disclose that said composition may contain two dyes of the formula (XI) (for example, C8 of Table 6, D8 of Table 8, both Examples comprising Y1 and Y2). However, Hayashi et al. do not disclose or suggest use of the compound of the present Formula (1), because two methoxy groups of the present Formula (1) substitute at the ortho position of the two phenyl rings to the amino group on the phenyl ring, respectively, and substituents R^{103} and R^{104} of Hayashi's Formula (XI) substitute at the meta position of the phenyl ring to the amino group of the phenyl ring. Indeed, Hayashi's Formula (XI) has no methoxy group at the ortho position of the phenyl ring to the amino group on the phenyl ring. The compound of the present Formula (1) is not included into the compound of Hayashi's Formula (XI) although the compound of the present Formula (2) is included into the compound of Hayashi's Formula (XI).

Accordingly, Hayashi does not suggest the present dye composition comprising the compounds of the present Formula (1) and (2).

The present invention is characterized by a dye composition comprising two specified compounds, the present formula (1) and (2), having very superior long-term storage stability in aqueous solution at high concentration although the each compound of the present formula (1) and (2) has poor stability in aqueous solution at high concentration. This is clear from Example 3 (specifically Table 1, pages 17-18) of the present specification.

Specifically, in the aqueous solution containing the compound of the present Formula (1) alone at 10% concentration (Comparative Example 1), precipitation occurred after 20 days in storage at 0°C. In the aqueous solution containing the compound of the present Formula (2) alone at 10% concentration (Comparative Example 2), precipitation occurred after 3 days in storage at 0°C. However, in the aqueous solution of the present dye compositions (1 to 4) comprising both compounds of the present Formula (1) and (2) at 10% concentration in total amount, precipitation did not occur after one month in storage at 0°C and, indeed, did not occur even after a year (lines 11-12 from the bottom of page 18).

This excellent effect is nowhere disclosed or suggested by Hayashi et al.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,

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